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U K R A I N E

USAID's Support to ENEMO in Ukraine Led to a Free and Fair Result

U.S. Charge d'Affairs Sheila Gwaltney applauded the work of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) over the last two years in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Albania and Kazakstan while speaking on June 23 during ENEMO's annual assembly, held this year in Kyiv.

Ms. Gwaltney noted that the election observer organization has evolved into a truly credible and reliable entity with diverse expertise in a critical area of democratic development.



Sheila Gwaltney (left) with Ihor Popov, Committee of Voters of Ukraine head, prior to opening ENEMO conference

"Your ability to bring a diverse international membership to your observer missions is without a doubt a great strength of your organization," explained the Charge d'Affairs. "But coordinating the activities of 18 autonomous domestic organizations could become an obstacle as you develop further. This is a challenge you must seriously consider in your work here." USAID has supported ENEMO's work in Ukraine through

Freedom House and the National Democratic Institute. The organization played a key role in the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine, which it and other international observer election teams deemed fraudulent, and which led to large-scale demonstrations throughout Ukraine before a third round of elections finally produced a free and fair result.

Ukrainian NGO, Created with USAID Assistance, Celebrates its Fifth Anniversary

USAID/Ukraine Mission Director Earl Gast expressed his gratitude on June 23 for the effort that the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE) has expended over the last five years to improve the media climate in the regions of Ukraine and to educate Ukrainians on various reforms that are taking place in the country.

Speaking during CURE's Fifth Anniversary meeting in Pushcha Vodytsia to representatives of the 26 regional press clubs that CURE has established in all the regions, Mr. Gast explained that while CURE has played a substantial role in fighting for press freedom's and media independence, it must sustain the effort because more openness and independence is needed. The USAID/Ukraine Mission also noted the key role that CURE played in developing an effective public education campaign in Ukraine to the effort to control the spread of Avian Flu. Mr. Gast said that CURE was so effective in educating millions of Ukrainians about the virus, that by the time it appeared on Ukrainian territory most people knew what to do to avoid contacting it.

Leading Stock Exchange Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

On June 21, 2006, USAID's Office of Economic Growth Director Gary Linden joined Ukrainian

government and financial markets participants in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the PFTS First Stock Trading System, Ukraine's leading stock exchange and association of broker-dealers. Established with USAID support in 1996, the PFTS has become an internationally recognized exchange and an advocate for greater transparency, good corporate governance and capital markets development in the country. Its membership includes the vast majority of the banks and financial intermediaries, representing over 90% of trading in a market which has more than doubled in size during the last year. Mr. Linden toasted the PFTS for "10 years of diligent institution building and efforts which have advanced capital markets in Ukraine."



Irina Zarya, the PFTS President receives an Order of Merit

The night culminated with an Order of Merit award to PFTS and its President Irina Zarya by Securities Commission Chairman Anatoliy Baliuk. The PFTS was also awarded a stock exchange license under the terms of the recently passed Securities Law, whose regulations are designed to promote the integration of Ukraine with the West by moving it toward EU standards for capital markets.

Zakarpattya to Produce Feta Cheese

On June 21, 2006, a new cheese plant was opened by "Rakhiv Bryndza," an agricultural service cooperative, based in village Lug, Rakhiv rayon, Zakarpattya oblast.

"Rakhiv Bryndza" cooperative won a grant to open bryndza (feta) cheese plant from the Agricultural Marketing Project (AMP) under USAID support. Through the grant the cooperative received dairy processing equipment, and workers were trained on utilizing it. As a result, the plant will be able to

process up to 2 tons of milk per day and produce up to 500 kg of cheese.



Dragi Mihailov (right) and the member of Rakhiv Bryndza cooperative in the process of cheese formation

Dragi Mihailov, a Land O'Lakes consultant, said that the cooperative has everything to produce a unique and competitive product. "Traditional Hutsul bryndza hard cheese and white soft feta-type cheese can be produced here. Now the plant has competitive advantage among various dairy market producers."

Roman Salo, the Zakarpattya AMP office Coordinator, mentioned that the newly opened cheese plant will support the revival of livestock breeding in the Zakarpattya mountainous rayon. This initiative will result in new jobs and development of a new sales market for dairy products, and will be an example of useful cooperation for other farmers in Rakhiv rayon.

Upcoming Events

July 1, CIPA-Ukraine Project, CAP/CIPA Exams: Tax and Law, Finance, Kyiv.

July 3 - 21, U-Media Project, International Summer Media Law School, Kyiv.

July 8 - 9, Political Parties Building in Ukraine Project, Ukraine & Moldova Women's Political Leadership Exchange, Odesa.

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M O L D O V A

Government of Moldova Awards Brock Bierman

President of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin, awarded Brock D. Bierman, Senior Advisor for the USAID Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, the Medal of Civic Merit for his professional contributions to sustaining democratic reforms and for assistance to advance social and economic development in the Republic of Moldova.



President Vladimir Voronin and Brock Bierman at the award ceremony

President Voronin offered praise to Mr. Bierman for his commitment to Moldova: "The energy and dedication showed by Mr. Bierman to the United States and the Republic of Moldova are highly admirable and I commend your efforts."

Referred to as "one of Moldova's greatest friends" by Ambassador Rudolf V. Perina, Charge d'Affairs for the U.S. Embassy to Moldova, Mr. Bierman marked his recent visit to Moldova with a full calendar of appearances, but most importantly connecting with the people of Moldova, particularly those working in the frontlines leading reforms.

Promoting Local Government Autonomy in Moldova

The USAID Local Government Reform Project held its 11th Quarterly Mayor's Meeting on June 29th. The theme was "Local Economic Development" highlighting recent developments related to decentralization, local governance, and training needs for mayors.



Moldovan mayors meet to discuss their common agendas

This conference is just one of the many forums organized by the project to strengthen local government in the areas of democracy and governance, fiscal improvements and municipal services.

Moreover, the meeting provided an opportunity for community representatives to meet in an open forum, discuss common areas of interest and exchange information.

Upcoming Events

July 10 - 14, Local Government Reform Project, Project Opening, Road Renovation Project, Sireti, Strasen, Moldova.

July 12 - 14, Citizen Participation Program, Conference on "The Role of Transparency in Conducting Participative Activities," Soroca, Ungheni, Moldova.

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